

A Note about Receiving Communion while Travelling

Dear Parishioners,

On various occasions during the vacation season I have heard reports that some of you have been refused Communion on the tongue while visiting other churches outside our diocese. As a point of clarification, consider these statements from Rome on the matter:

1. A “Notification” entitled “*Le Saint Siège*” of April 3, 1985 stated:

“The faithful will never be obliged to adopt the practice of Communion in the hand..”

In other words, where it may be permitted, it is not *obligatory*.

2. In the official bulletin called *Notitiae* (no. 35, in 1999) of the Congregation of Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments it states:

“Those who oblige communicants to receive Holy Communion only in the hand, as well as those who refuse the faithful the right to receive Communion on the tongue in the dioceses that have the exemption, act therefore against the rule.”

And the same document goes on to state:

“In any case, let everyone recall that the age-old tradition is to receive the Host on the tongue. Let not the priest celebrant, if a danger of sacrilege exists, give Communion in the hand of the faithful and let him inform them as to the reasons by which he so acts.”

3. In the Instruction *Redemptionis Sacramentum* (no. 92) of the same Roman office it states:

“Each one of the faithful always has the right to choose if he desires to receive sacred Communion on the tongue.”

Yours in Christ Eucharistic,

Father Francis de Rosa, Pastor